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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 002186

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/02/2013

TAGS: KPAO PREL PTER YM

SUBJECT: YEMEN PONDERS NAJAF STATEMENT

REF: SECSTATE 250578

Classified By: Charge Alan Misenheimer for reasons 1.5(b,d).

¶1. (c) Pol/Econoff met with Abdul Hakim Al-Iryani, assistant to Foreign Minister Qirbi, on September 1 to discuss a number of Iraq-related issues, including the August 28 car bombing in Najaf. Drawing on reftel, Pol/Econoff noted the apparent absence, in local media or diplomatic channels, of a ROYG statement denouncing the attack in Najaf. Iryani admitted that he was unaware of any ROYG statement, but would confer with the appropriate individuals to see if such a statement would be forthcoming.

¶2. (u) Yemeni media have carried statements by Yemeni Shia groups denouncing the Najaf bombing.

¶3. (c) Pol/Econoff also asked if Iryani believed a statement denouncing the attack in Najaf would be issued during the upcoming AL meetings in Cairo. He agreed on the gravity of the attack, but was uncertain if such a statement was planned.

MISENHEIMER